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ABSTRACT

A discussion of the cultural dimension in foreign/second language learning focuses on the need for research and theory development in this area. The first chapter addresses the role of culture in language learning and proposes areas in which theory may be developed. The second chapter looks at methodologies for teaching language and culture in concert and reflects on the content of culture instruction. Teacher training needs are discussed in the third chapter. Chapter 4 presents a number of illustrative case studies of curricula, course proposals, and classroom techniques for cultural studies in England, Wales, Germany, France, and Turkey, including programs in student preparation for study abroad and a teacher education program. The fifth chapter looks at the assessment of cultural learning: what and how to assess; experiments in assessment; and determination of levels of competence for evaluation purposes. The concluding chapter presents three ideas for further consideration in the development of cultural learning theory: language and culture teaching as political education; culture-specific learning as an element of and contribution to multicultural education; and a possible relationship between language learning and social class. (MSE)

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